

CONSTITUTION OF THE ROTHER ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

1. NAME: The name of this organisation shall be ROTHER ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP referred to hereinafter as 'the Group'

2. OBJECTS:

a) To encourage interest in and awareness of environmental issues which affect the Rother District Council area and its immediate environs.

b) To monitor threats to the environment and actions taken in response by individuals, companies and statutory authorities to ensure that they are in the best interests of the environment as a whole.

c) To consider what further actions should be taken in response to an issue, and to participate in, support and encourage such actions.

3. MEMBERSHIP: Membership shall be open to any person subject to Clauses 6(d) and (e). The Trustees will keep an up to date membership list.

4. SUBSCRIPTIONS: Annual subscriptions for membership shall be determined by the Trustees. The Trustees may also decide to set a subscription for life membership.

5. OFFICERS OF THE GROUP:

a) A Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting in each year and shall be eligible for re-election at subsequent Annual General Meetings.

b) Vacancies in any of the said offices falling between Annual General Meetings may be filled by the Trustees. The Trustees may create additional officer roles as required, and appoint existing Trustees to these roles. In exceptional cases the Trustees may appoint an individual who is not a Trustee to an Officer position, to serve until the following Annual General Meeting when, such appointee wishing to continue as an officer, he/she must seek election both as a Trustee and an Officer.

c) The Trustees may seek the approval of an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting for the appointment of an individual into an Emeritus role, in recognition of their exceptional contribution to the Group or to environmental issues in the Rother area. Such a role does not confer Trustee or Officer status.

6. TRUSTEES

a) A Trustee must be a member of the Group. The first Trustees shall be those elected at the General Meeting which adopts this constitution. Thereafter one third of those first Trustees appointed shall be selected by lots, and shall retire at each of the three subsequent Annual General Meetings. Thereafter Trustees shall retire after serving a three year term. Retiring Trustees are free to stand for re-election.



b) The Trustees shall be composed of the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary elected under Clause 5a) above, and not more than six further persons members elected in accordance with this paragraph and provided that maximum number is not exceeded, the Trustees shall have the right at any time during a year to co-opt an additional Trustee or Trustees, who shall retire at the next Annual General Meeting.

c) The Trustees shall meet at least three times per year, either in person or in a virtual meeting to conduct their business. A quorum shall consist of three Trustees. Minutes of meetings shall be kept.

d) The Trustees shall have the right to approve or reject applications for membership.

e) The Trustees shall have the right for good and sufficient reasons to terminate the membership of any individual or organisation provided that the individual member concerned or the individual representing such organisation shall have the right to be heard by the Trustees before a final decision is made. At such a hearing such person may be accompanied by a friend.

f) The Trustees may make reasonable additional rules to help run the Group. These rules must not conflict with this constitution or the law.

g) If Trustees have a conflict of interest they must declare it and may not vote on the matter where the conflict arises.

h) An honorary Auditor shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting from among the members. No Trustee may be an Auditor.

7. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

a) The Annual General Meeting of the Group will be held during November in each year. The Secretary shall give members not less than fourteen days' notice of the date time and place of such meeting and shall make available at latest at the Annual General Meeting a copy of the Annual Report and Statement of Account for the last financial year, together with the Auditor's Report if such a report is required.

b) Nominations for election as Trustees and the officer posts must be proposed and seconded by members in writing and received by the Secretary at least three days before the Annual General Meeting.

c) Six members present or one tenth of the membership, whichever is the greater, shall constitute a quorum.

d) Minutes shall be taken of the Annual General Meeting, detailing all decisions taken, and these shall be available to the members after the meeting.

8. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING: An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by a minimum of ten per cent of the registered members or a figure based on the Membership Secretary's previous year's report if this is deemed necessary, to consider any urgent matter relating to the Group's actions and its objects.



9. VOTING: At the meetings of the Group and of the Trustees every decision shall be determined by a show of hands. The Chairman of any General Meeting and of meetings of the Trustees shall be entitled to vote and in addition be entitled to a casting vote in the case of equality of votes.

10. FINANCE:

a) The Trustees shall be empowered to raise administer and apply such funds as shall be placed at its disposal for the furtherance of the objects of the Group and shall open a bank account for such purposes.

b) The Trustees must keep accounts. The most recent Annual Accounts can be seen by any member on request.

c) Trustees cannot receive money or property from the Group, except to refund reasonable out of pocket expenses, or if the Trustees agree to commission a paid project from one of the Trustees in which case Clause 6g) above will apply.

11. FINANCIAL YEAR: The financial year of the Group shall be from 1 October to 30 September in any year.

12. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION: Alterations to this Constitution may be made provided that such shall receive the assent of two thirds of the members present and voting at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting. A resolution for the alteration of the Constitution must be received by the Secretary of the Group at least twenty one days before the meeting at which the resolution is to be brought forward. For this purpose alone, at least fourteen days' notice of such a meeting must be given by the Secretary to the members and must include notice of the alterations proposed. No alterations can be made which would make the Group no longer a charity.

13. DISSOLUTION: The Group may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two thirds majority of those present and voting at an Extraordinary General Meeting convened for the purpose of which fourteen days' notice shall have been given to the members. Such resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the Group provided that if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities such property shall not be paid to or distributed among the members but shall be given or transferred to other such charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to some or all of the objects of the Group as the Trustees may determine and if insofar as this provision cannot be put into effect then to some other charitable purpose.

14. ADOPTION OF THIS CONSTITUTION:

Certified by the Secretary that this Constitution was adopted on 26 November 2013.

